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Shoreline Stabilization Design and Wetland Restoration Project

The Shoreline Stabilization and Wetland Restoration Project was a cooperative effort between the United States Air Force, Langley Air Force Base (LAFB) and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The project was for the design of shoreline stabilization and potential wetland restoration at five sites within LAFB. DCR would further expand the cooperative effort by contracting with Old Dominion University Research Foundation (ODURF) and The Coastal Engineering Centre at Old Dominion University for design solutions at the sites.

The project addressed LAFB desire to develop cooperative projects with DCR to become an active participant in improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The project addresses the "Action Items for the Chesapeake Bay Program" of September 14, 1993 developed by the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency on April 20, 1990. The specific Goals of the Action Plan addressed are "Restore and Protect Living Resources" and "Improve Water Quality". The proposed shoreline stabilization planning is proposed in conjunction with the 1998 Federal Agencies Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem Unified Plan initiatives as well as the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.

The publication entitled Shoreline Situation Report: City of Hampton reports that the historical erosion rate along the LAFB shoreline may vary from being stable to less than 1 foot per year. The report was printed in 1975 and provides historical insight into the erosion problem along the base. However, base mission needs have developed sections of the shoreline that are now threatened by long-term erosion. Therefore, shoreline stabilization and possible wetland restoration plans were developed for the following sites:

- Memorial Park, Phase II
- LTA Pool and Parking Lot
- Building 578 Spit Area
- Building 617 Boat Ramp and Parking Lot
- Mobile Radar Site

Memorial Park, Phase II

Historically, LAFB attempted to prevent erosion along the Memorial Park shoreline by placing concrete rubble, broken bricks and block, and asphalt chunks against the bank. The rubble was placed per no specific design and filter cloth was not used under or behind the material. While the rubble slowed the erosion, normal tidal action and elevated water levels associated with storms could penetrate the rubble and erode the bank.

LAFB in cooperation with the Norfolk District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers designed and constructed a riprap structure to protect the Memorial Park shoreline in 1998. Due to limited project funding, approximately 700 feet of shoreline could not be protected.

Phase II of the Memorial Park project extends the riprap structure along the remaining shoreline. The existing broken concrete and other rubble is to be removed, the bank reshaped and the riprap structure installed. Broken concrete and rubble suitable for use as core material in the structure will be salvaged and used. Material not used as core for this site will be stockpiled for later use in other structures. Material not suitable for use in the structures will be hauled away and properly placed in a disposal site. In this phase, there is no room for wetland restoration due to the existing topography of the bank and the proximity of the oyster lease lines.

The plans for the site are provided as Attachment A.

LTA Pool and Parking Lot

The shoreline in this area is eroding and subject to impact from elevated water levels and waves associated with Northeasters. Historically, LAFB has placed concrete rubble to protect the pool and pump house (building 903). The rubble was placed per no specific design and filter cloth was not used under or behind the material. While the rubble slowed the erosion, normal tidal action and elevated water levels and waves associated with Northeasters have continued to erode the shoreline. In addition, there is extensive research and restoration of historical submerged aquatic vegetation just off shore of the proposed stabilization project.

To protect the pool, pump house and parking lot, a properly designed and constructed riprap structure and marsh grass planting is proposed for the area. The existing concrete rubble will be removed, the bank reshaped, and the riprap structure installed. If necessary, fill may be placed to rebuild and reshape the bank. Broken concrete and rubble suitable for use as core material in the structure will be salvaged and used. Material not used as core for this site may be stockpiled for later use in other structures. Material not suitable for use in the structures will be hauled away and properly placed in a disposal site.

Smooth cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*) is proposed for planting between the mean high and mean low water elevations. The proposed planting will supplement the existing grasses. The grasses will be planted on an 18 inch by 18 inch grid. The grasses will be fertilized at planting. Grasses established on this site would provide marsh restoration for the marsh displaced due to the construction of the revetment and enhance water quality in the area.

The plans for the site are provided as Attachment B.

Building 578 Spit Area

The shoreline on the south side of the marina is eroding due to normal tidal action and elevated water levels and waves associated with storms. The erosion has damaged sections of the existing parking lot and curb. Erosion on the northern end of the spit has begun to flank the existing bulkhead protecting the marina. If the erosion is allowed to continue, the marina bulkhead and parking lot will suffer further damage. Historically, LAFB has placed a minimal amount of broken concrete in the area in an attempt to control the erosion.

To prevent further erosion of the spit and to protect the marina bulkhead from flanking, a properly designed and constructed riprap structure is proposed for the area. The existing concrete rubble will be removed, the bank graded reshaped, and the riprap structure installed. If necessary, fill may be placed to rebuild and reshape the bank. Broken concrete and rubble suitable for use as core material in the structure will be salvaged from the site and other shoreline projects on the base.

Smooth cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*) is proposed for planting between the mean high and mean low water elevations. The proposed planting will supplement the existing grasses. The grasses will be planted on an 18 inch by 18 inch grid. The grasses will be fertilized at planting. Grasses established on this site would provide habitat and enhance water quality in the area.

The plans for the site are provided as Attachment C.

Building 617 Boat Ramp and Parking Lot

Placing soil over broken concrete, asphalt chunks, and broken bricks and blocks probably created the land in this area. The material was most likely placed to prevent erosion and to create land for the parking lot and boat ramp. The mass of material at the site reduces the erosion, but soil is being lost due to normal tidal action and high water levels associated with storms. Proper shoreline stabilization will provide for a much needed vegetated buffer between the river and the parking lot boundary.

A properly designed and constructed riprap structure with supplemental marsh grass plantings is proposed for this shoreline. The existing fill material will be removed, the bank reshaped, and the riprap structure installed. If necessary, fill may be placed to rebuild and reshape the bank. Broken concrete and rubble suitable for use as core material in the structure will be salvaged and used. Material not used as core for this site may be stockpiled for later use in other structures. Material not suitable for use in the structures will be hauled away and properly placed in a disposal site.

Smooth cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*) is proposed for planting between the mean high and mean low water elevations. The proposed planting will supplement the existing grasses. The grasses will be planted on an 18 inch by 18 inch grid. The grasses will be

fertilized at planting. Grasses established on this site would provide habitat and enhance water quality in the area.

The plans for the site are provided as Attachment D.

Mobile Radar Site

The site is located within a tidal marsh and consists of an elevated pad above the marsh. The marsh surrounding the site provides protection during normal tidal cycles. The high water levels, storm surge, associated with coastal storms flood the protective marsh and allows storm waves and stormwater runoff to erode the fill. Sandbags have been placed by LAFB to protect the fill. However, long-term protection for the site is needed to insure success of the required mission. In the event mission requirements are no longer necessary to occupy this particular area within the marsh, the site would be well suited to removing the access road and pad and restoring the native marsh system.

The proposed protection for the site consists of an elevated pad with a properly designed and constructed riprap structure to prevent erosion of the fill. Broken concrete recycled from the other shoreline projects should be used as core in the structure. Class II riprap would be used as the armor stone in the structure. The fill used to raise the elevation of the pad should be a clean sandy soil. The marsh grass plantings from the other shoreline projects may be proposed as mitigation for the wetland impacts of this project.

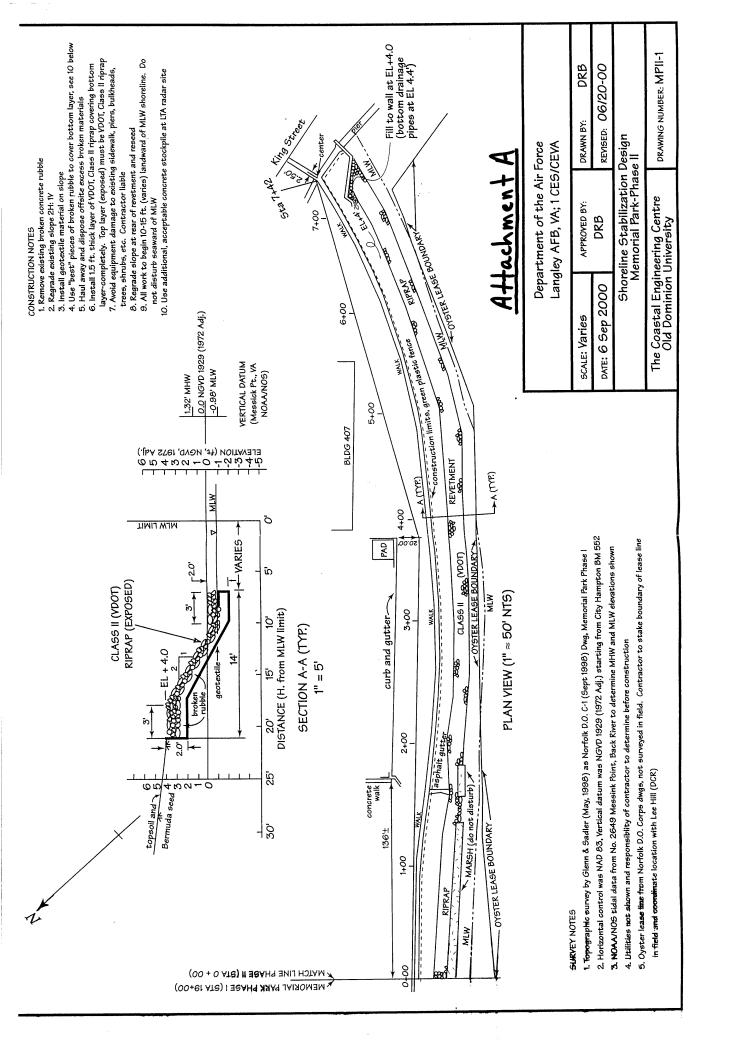
The plans for the site are provided as Attachment E.

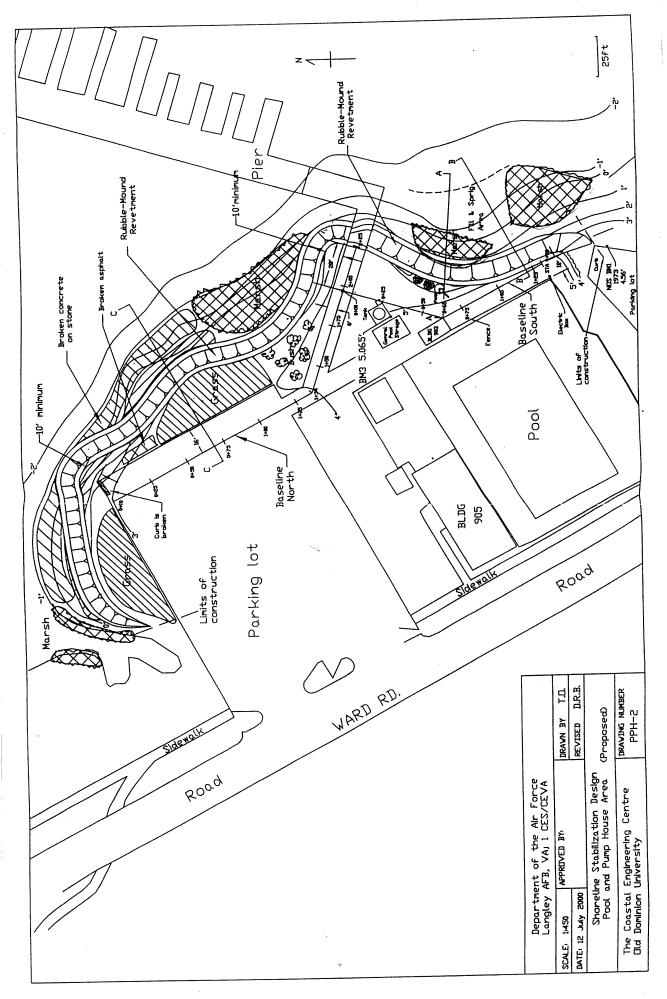
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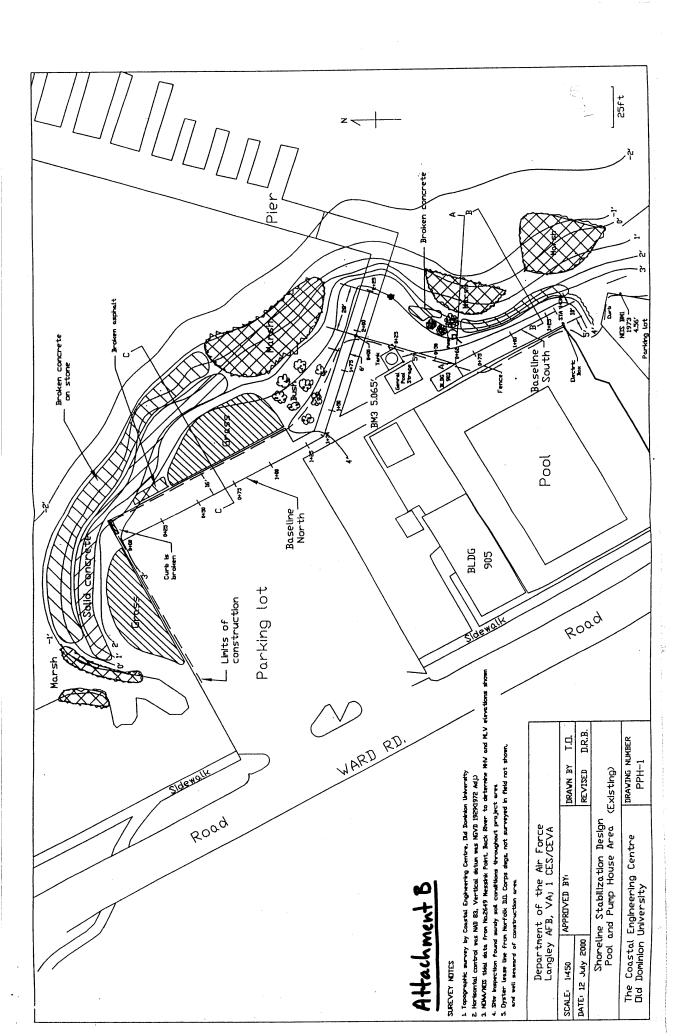
The implementation of environmentally sound and cost effective shoreline protection and wetlands restoration projects by LAFB is to be commended. The cooperative effort with DCR and ODURF was an attempt to expand interagency coordination on shoreline projects and expand technical expertise available to LAFB. The project was also an attempt between DCR and LAFB to minimize design costs for projects. Based on the experience with this project, the following recommendations for future shoreline restoration or protection projects at LAFB are provided:

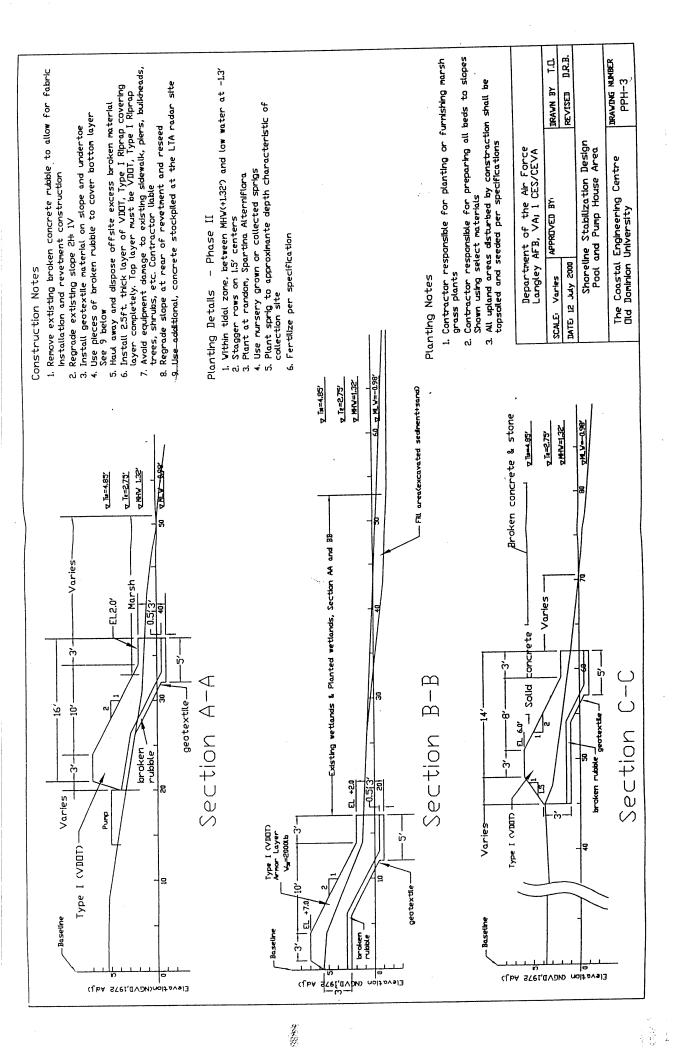
- 1. LAFB and DCR should develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding technical advice to be provided on proposed shoreline protection or restoration projects. The MOA would identify the role of LAFB and DCR in the development, permitting, bidding, funding and construction of identified projects.
- 2. DCR's Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service (SEAS) provides free technical advice to private property owners regarding shoreline erosion control. As SEAS advice would be provided at no charge to LAFB, as identified in the MOA, all costs associated with design could and should be used to enhance construction monies available for proposed projects.

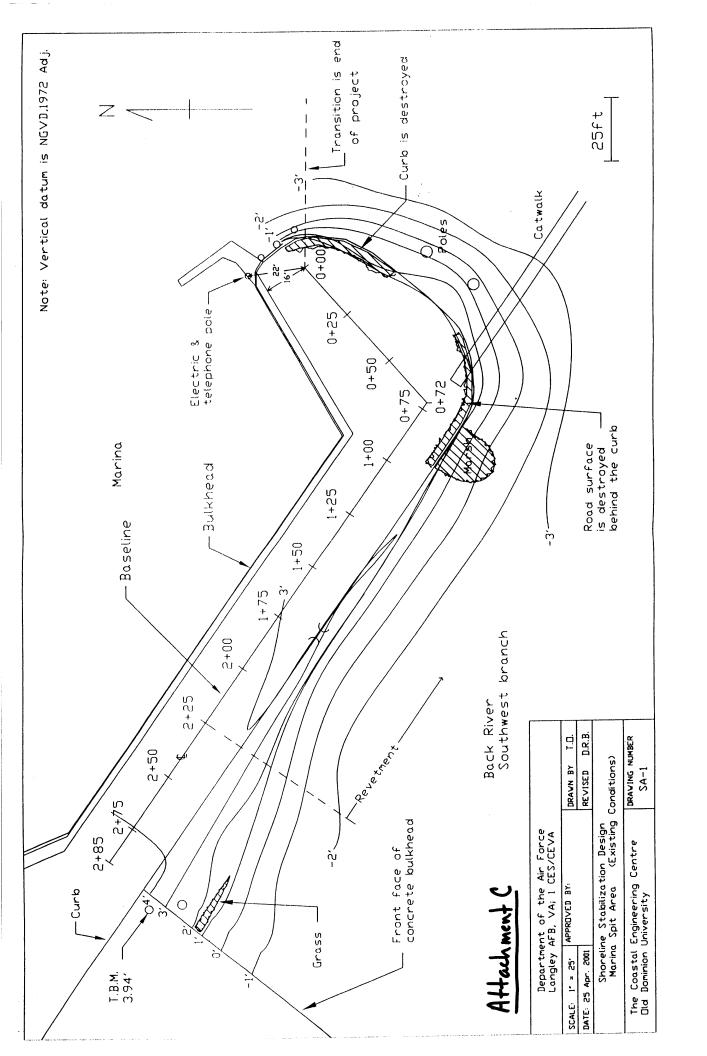
- 3. An overall shoreline management plan should be developed for LAFB. LAFB and DCR staffs have worked together in the past to develop shoreline protection or restoration projects and have developed an "unofficial" management plan for the base.
- 4. LAFB and DCR staff should continue to cooperate in the development of shoreline protection or restoration projects for the base.

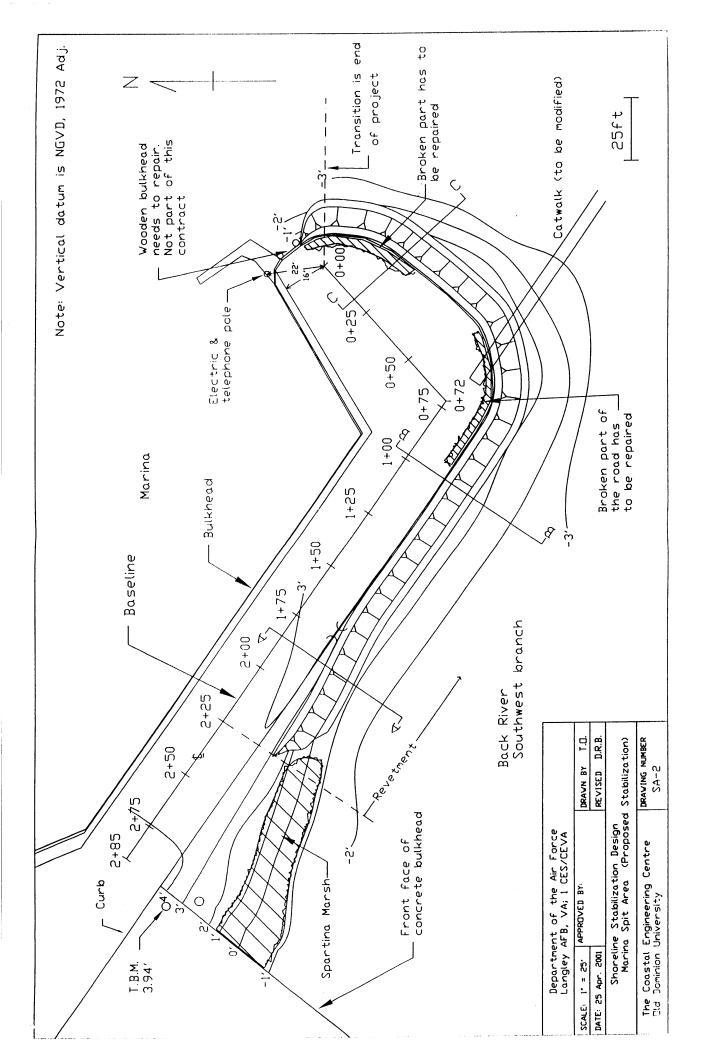


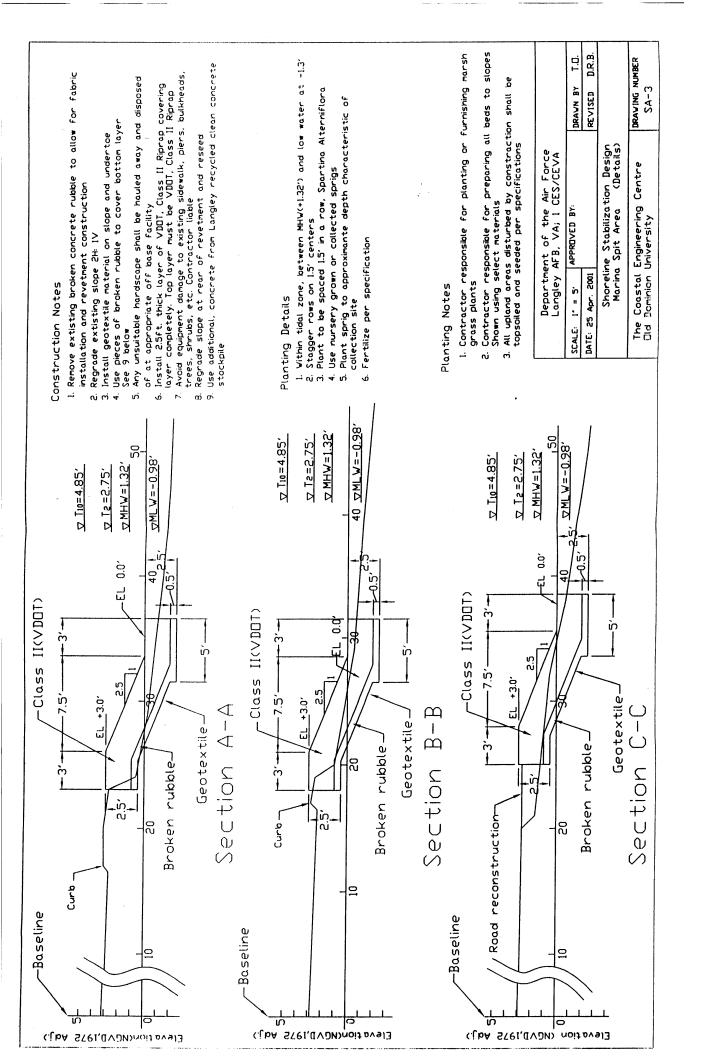


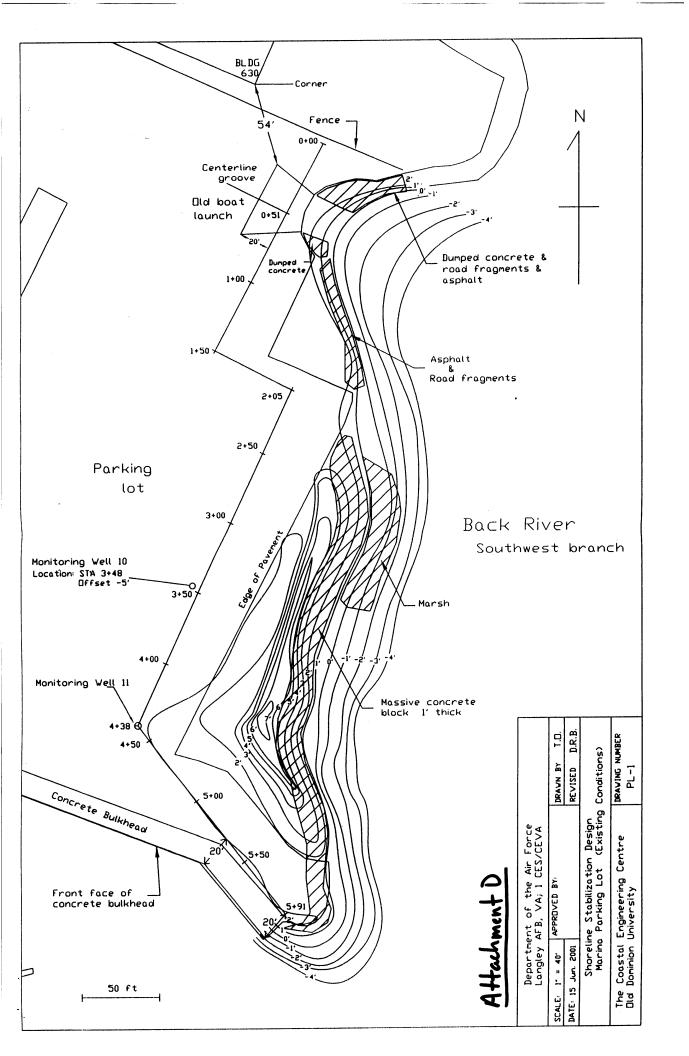


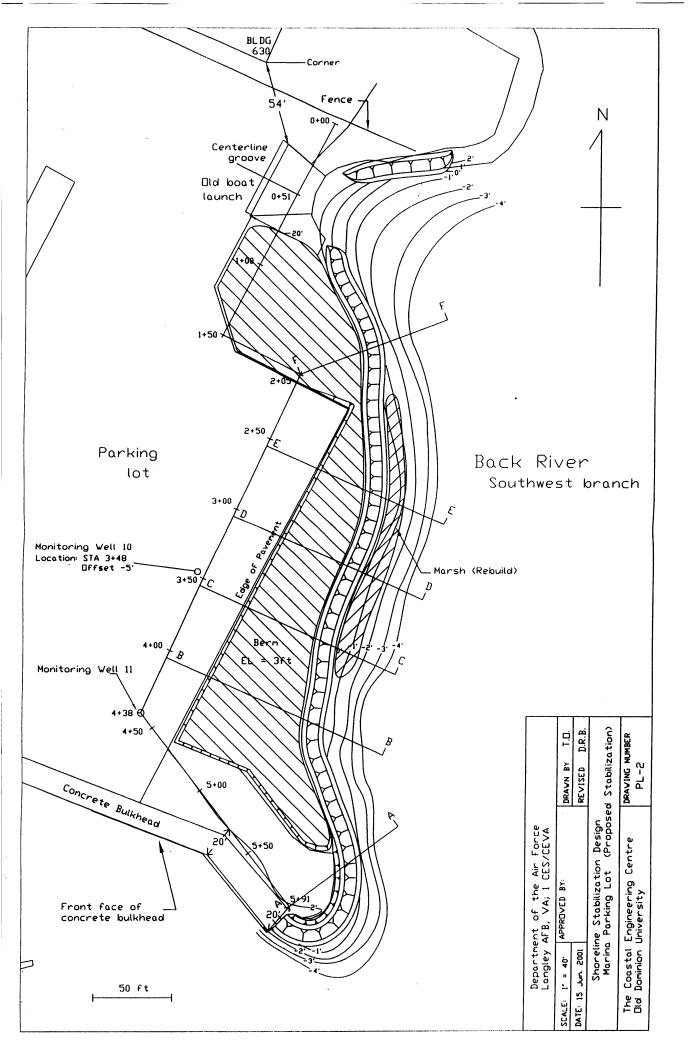


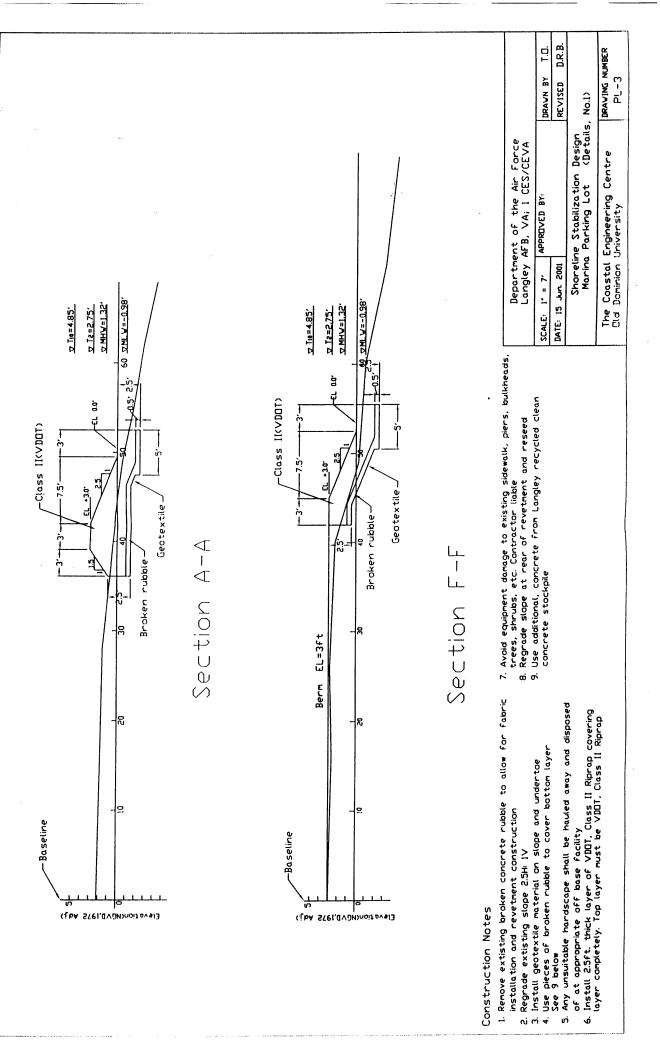


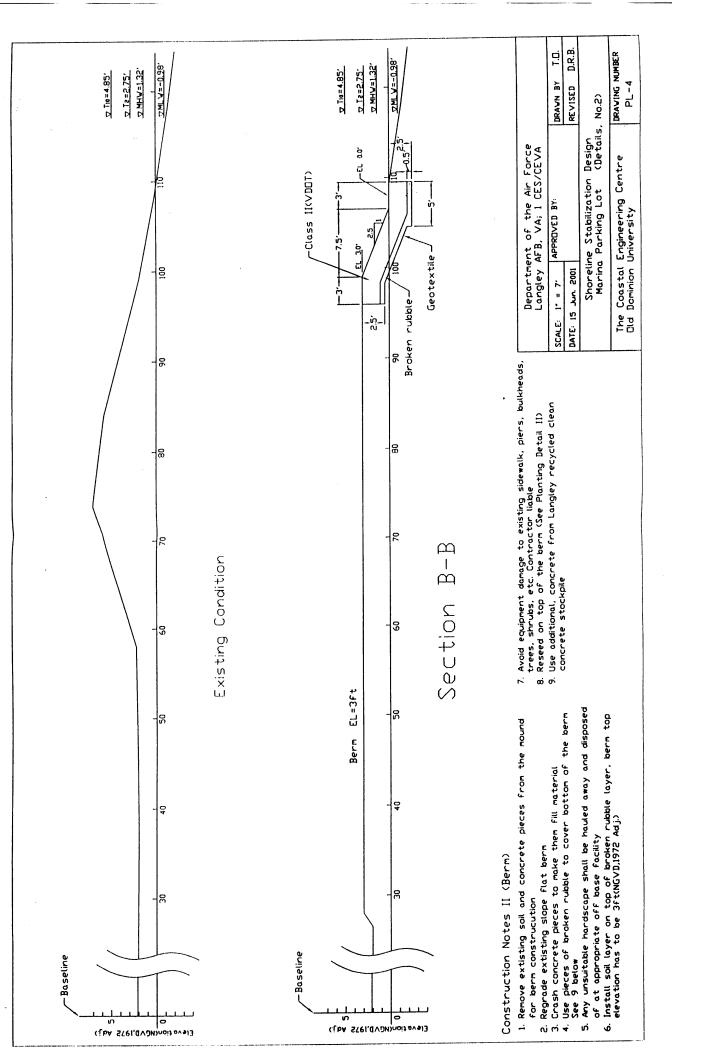


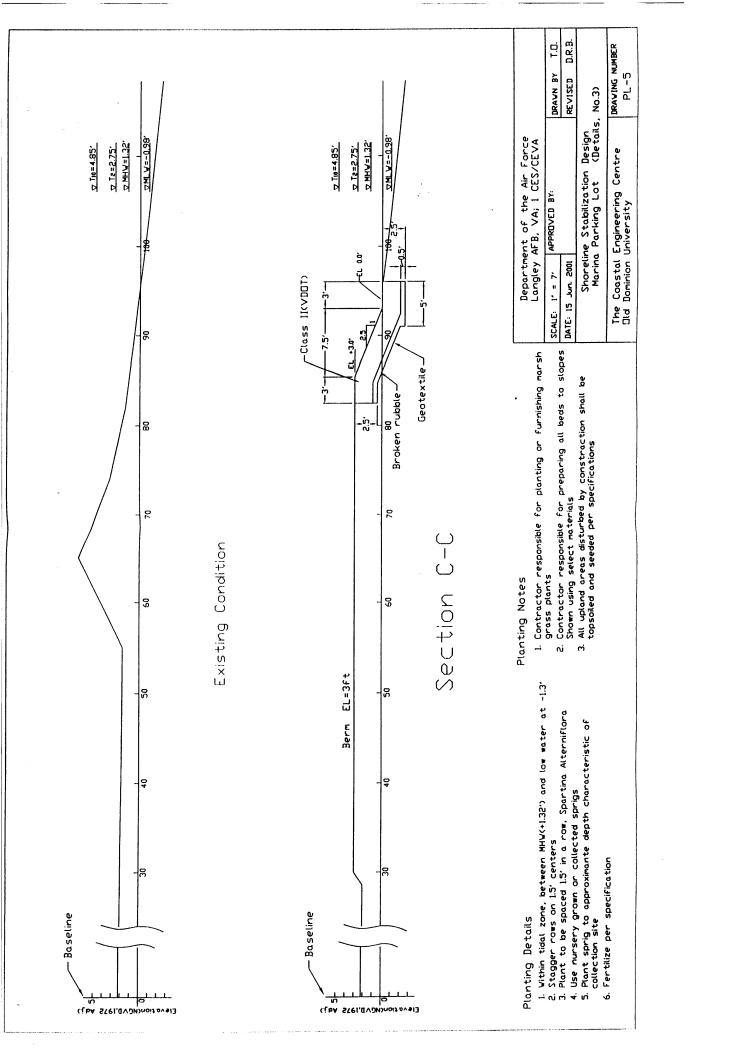


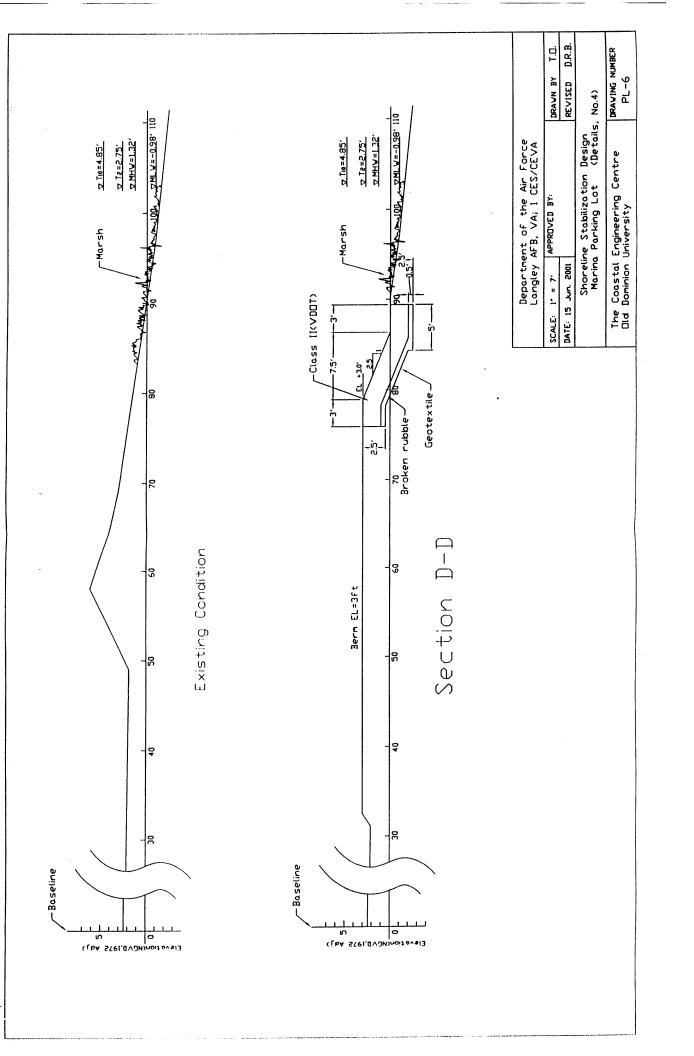


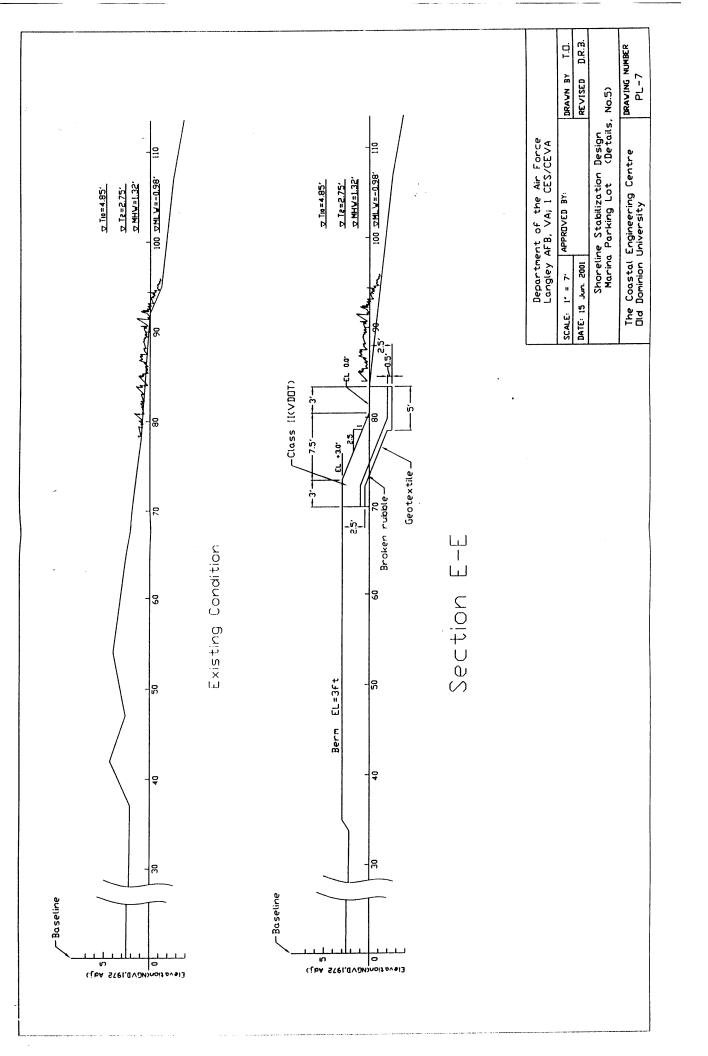


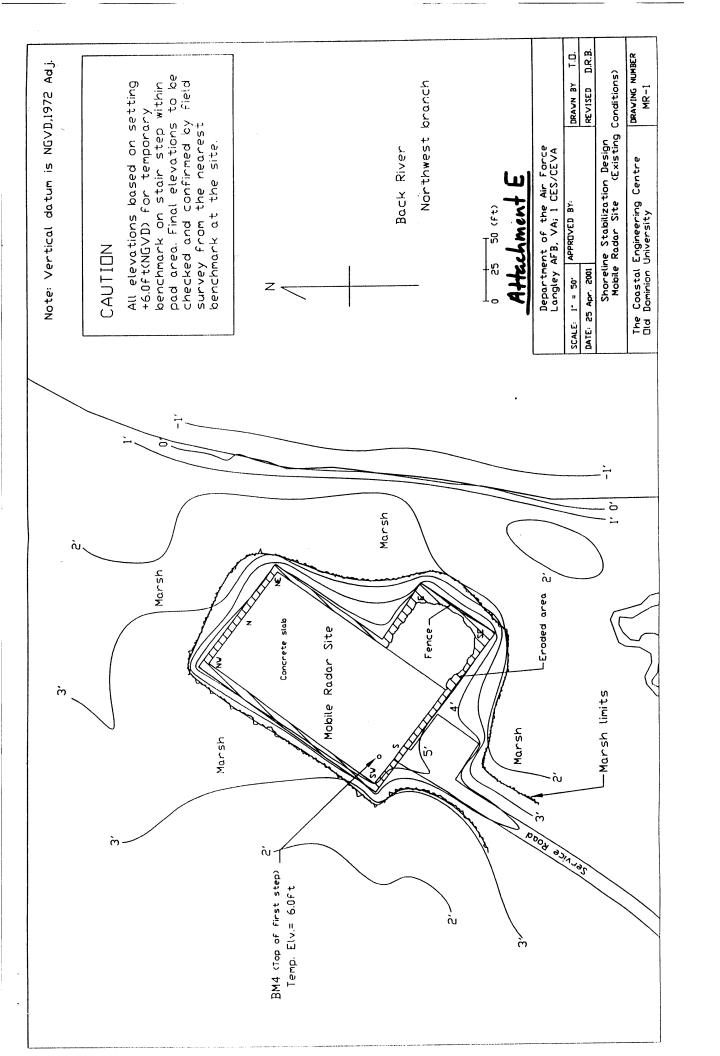


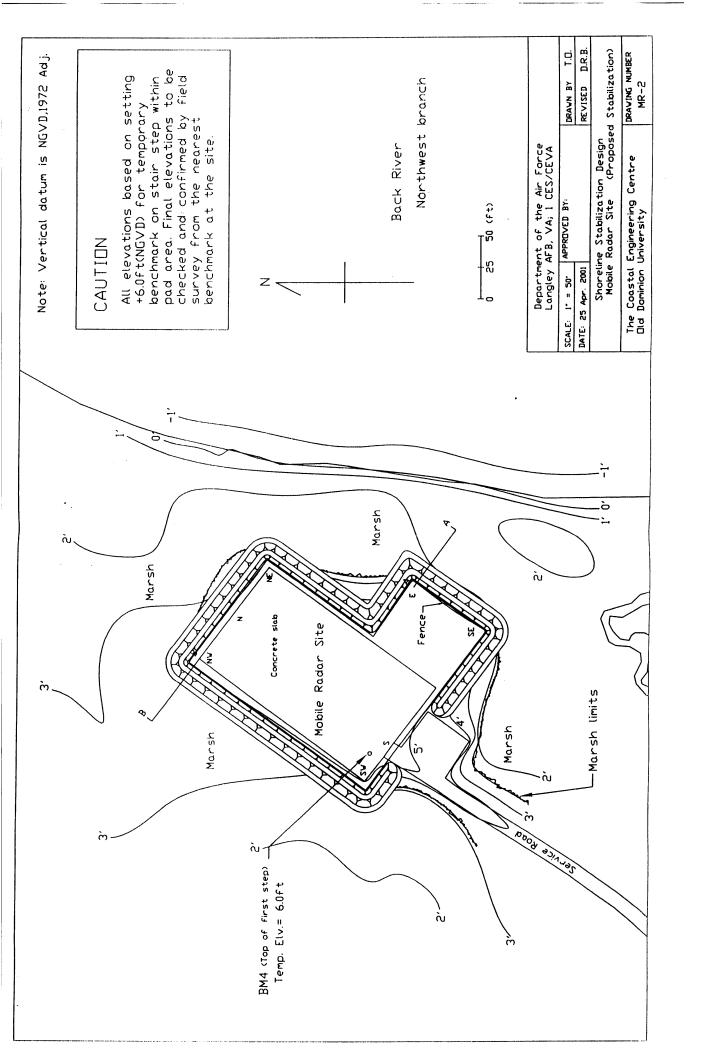


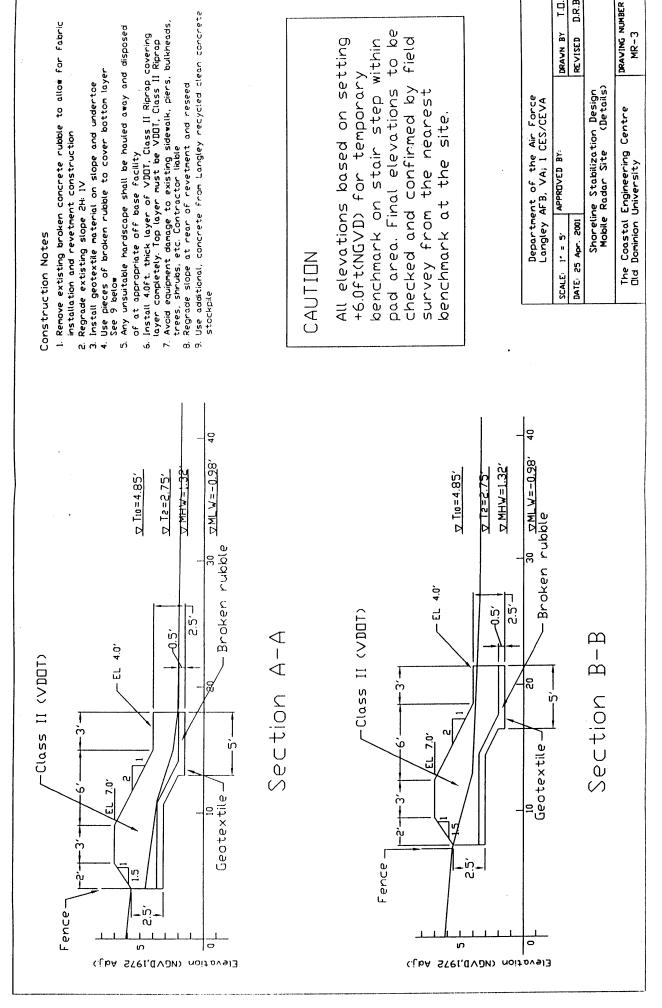












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